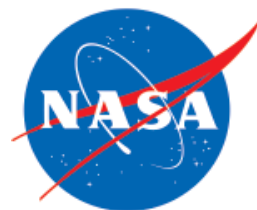


# Inside Wallops

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Goddard Space Flight Center  
Wallops Flight Facility, Wallops Island, Va.



Volume XX-07    Number 15    April 16, 2007

## Hubble Turns Seventeen

From the dawn of humankind to a mere 400 years ago, all that we knew about our universe came through observations with the naked eye. Then Galileo turned his telescope toward the heavens in 1610. The world was in for an awakening.

Saturn, we learned, had rings. Jupiter had moons. That nebulous patch across the center of the sky called the Milky Way was not a cloud but a collection of countless stars. Within but a few years, our notion of the natural world would be forever changed. A scientific and societal revolution quickly ensued.

In the centuries that followed, telescopes grew in size and complexity and, of course, power. They were placed far from city lights and as far above the haze of the atmosphere as possible. Edwin Hubble, for whom the Hubble Telescope is named, used the largest telescope of his day in the 1920's at the Mt. Wilson Observatory near Pasadena, California, to discover

galaxies beyond our own.

Hubble, the observatory, is the first major optical telescope to be placed in space, the ultimate mountaintop. Above the distortion of the atmosphere, far far above rain clouds and light pollution, Hubble has an unobstructed view of the universe.

Scientists have used Hubble to observe the most distant stars and galaxies as well as the planets in our solar system.

From far to near, from the earliest moments in the universe to current sandstorms on the surface of Mars...



*NASA Photo*

*Two astronauts work on the Hubble Space Telescope in space.*

Hubble's launching in 1990 marks the most significant advance in astronomy since Galileo's telescope. Our view of the universe and our place within it has never been the same.

For more information on Hubble visit:  
[http://www.nasa.gov/mision\\_pages/hubble/story/index.html](http://www.nasa.gov/mision_pages/hubble/story/index.html)

## Snapshot

*Photo by Capt. David Kulley*



Greenbackville Volunteer Fire Department and Atlantic Volunteer Fire Department assisted the Wallops Fire Department in a controlled burn and training session at the Marine Science Consortium on April 10.

They burned one of the old dormitory buildings.

## Wallops Shorts.....

Brian Hall, Range and Mission Management Office; Scott Schaire, Advanced Projects Office; and Dave Wilcox, Mechanical Systems Branch attended the 2007 National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, Col., from April 9-13 and staffed an exhibit booth that integrated Wallops overall capabilities.

The focus was on low cost access to space to support the Agency in technology maturation and access to the Space Station.

They met NASA Administrator Mike Griffin and attended a key note address by Under Secretary of the Air Force Ron Sega to the 3000 attendees, which focused on Tacsat-2 and highlighted Wallops launch success.

## The Forever Stamp

By Terry Ewell

Wallops Mail Services Center

On April 12, 2007, the USPS will begin selling its *Forever* stamp featuring the Liberty Bell image. On May 14, 2007, the price for mailing one-ounce First-Class letters will rise to 41 cents, and customers will be able to use the new stamp.

What is the big deal about this stamp? It's forever in that the design will not be changed, and customers can use the stamp anytime in the future to mail one-ounce or less First-class letters in standard envelopes, regardless of the current rate or date of use. The USPS hails the non-denominated, non-expiring stamp as a convenience for customers by eliminating the need to buy one-, two-, or three-cent stamps to mail letters after postal rate hikes.

Will this stamp always cost 41 cents? No. The *Forever* stamp will be sold for 41

cents until the next USPS rate hike, and the stamp will then be available at the new price. If you are a thrifty person; however, and you stock up on the stamp at the 41-cents rate; you will be able to continue to use your supply after a rate hike without adding any additional postage to cover the increase. When you exhaust your supply, you will pay the new one-ounce First-Class letter rate for the *Forever* stamp.

Similar stamps called *non-value indicators* were first issued by the UK in 1989. Today, about 30 countries have incorporated similar stamps into their mailbags of customer offerings.



## The Art of Negotiation

May 7

9 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Building E-2, Training Room

Jerry Roscoe, an internationally known teacher of negotiation skills, will teach a workshop designed to permit attendees to identify and sharpen their negotiation and communication skills.

In a thoroughly interactive and entertaining day, you will have an opportunity to discover and overcome the barriers to negotiation, learn why persuasion may not persuade, learn advanced communication skills, and gain insight as to methods for the effective facilitation of client meetings.

For more information or to register contact Dan Krieger at x 66-7913 or by email: [Dan.Krieger@nasa.gov](mailto:Dan.Krieger@nasa.gov)

## Guest speaker to Present Seminar at Wallops

Dr. Patrick Hatcher  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry  
Old Dominion University

Thursday, April 19

11 a.m.

Building E-100 Auditorium (Project Support Building)

Hatcher will be speaking about his work with dissolved organic matter (DOM). His seminar is titled: "Characterization of dissolved organic matter from the Chesapeake Bay to the offshore coastal zone."

## Discount Tickets

The Exchange Store, Building E-2, now has discount tickets to:

Water Country  
Busch Gardens  
Kings Dominion  
Delmarva Shorebirds

Contact Karen Shannon at X2020 or 2010 for more information.

## Government Travel Charge Card Reminders

The government charge card is required for **official travel related expenses only**, such as lodging, auto rental, food, fuel, and airline tickets.

An ATM advance can be obtained for the use of travel related expenses while on official travel. ATM transactions are limited to \$300 once every 7 days for domestic travel and \$500 once a day for 7 days, NTE \$1500 for foreign travel. Bank of America will charge a 1.9% fee for every advance withdrawal.

### Travel Charge Card Don'ts

- Do not use the government travel charge card for any type of personal use (retail purchases, non official ATM withdrawals, purchases for others travelers, etc...)
- Do not use your travel charge card to charge items for anyone other than yourself
- Do not wait until the receipt of your monthly bill to file a travel voucher for reimbursement
- Do not use your travel charge card to make unauthorized small purchases, these items must be purchased with the procurement card

### Payments and Payment Method Options

A charge card is not a credit card where a minimum payment is acceptable. Your government travel charge card balance must be paid in full upon receipt of the billing statement.

## Thank you!

Thank you from the staff of the American Red Cross and the Health Unit to all who donated at the Blood Drive on April 11.

Your efforts provided 31 usable units of blood!



## Diversity Council Words to Live By

"We all live with the objective of being happy; our lives are all different and yet the same." --Anne Frank



*Inside Wallops* is an official publication of Goddard Space Flight Center and is published by the Wallops Office of Public Affairs, Extension 1584, in the interest of Wallops employees. Recent and past issues of *Inside Wallops* also may be found on the NASA Wallops Flight Facility homepage: [www.wff.nasa.gov](http://www.wff.nasa.gov)

Editor  
Asst. Editor

Betty Flowers  
Rebecca Hudson